



TALE WATERS

A Monthly Publication of
Mesilla Valley Flyfishers, Inc.
P.O. Box 2222
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www.MVFF.org

July

2016



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Membership Meeting

There will be no MVFF general membership meeting in July. Many members will be fishing and the rest of them should be. The next meeting will be in September. See you then.

Executive Board Meeting

There will be no MVFF Board meeting in July. The next meeting will be in August. See you then.

Liars and Tyers

Liars and Tyers will not meet in July. The next meeting will be in September. See you then.

President's Corner



David Carmichael

Imagine that you are sitting on the river bank at 10:00 AM. Wildflowers bloom in profusion: purple penstemons, yellow sweet clover, iris and wild strawberries. Gooseberries are setting fruit, and the buzzing

of hummingbirds is the only sound that can be heard above the rush of the water and the rumble of distant thunder. There are giant stoneflies leaving the streamside vegetation, fluttering around your head and heading towards the river; some have landed on your shoulders, arms and fly rod as you scan the water. When you force yourself to look at the smaller insects, you find small black stoneflies and little yellow stones flitting through the willows and alders, and there is a Pale Morning Dun mayfly hatch underway as well. If this scenario sounds too good to be true, or at least too good to be in New Mexico, then perhaps it is time to visit the Pecos River.

Several weeks ago, while house-sitting for some friends in Pecos, NM., I had the opportunity to get reacquainted with one of the best fly fisheries in the state. It was on the headwaters of the Pecos that I first learned to fish as a youngster using a small fiberglass spin casting rod and salmon eggs. It was also where I began fly fishing on summer vacations during my junior high school years, and where I spent many weekends during college. However, I hadn't visited the Pecos since the Tres Lagunas and Jarosa fires damaged the watershed in June of 2013. Having a local base of operations for a week gave me the chance to examine several stretches of the watershed, sample for aquatic insects, and do a bit of fishing. I was also able to speak with Ed L'Heureax at High Desert Angler fly shop in Santa Fe, and Carlos Herrera of River Source, a watershed science advisory team, also in Santa Fe.

The Pecos River, at least the coldwater fishery portion, is readily accessed from the village of Pecos, about 30 miles east of Santa Fe. The headwaters consist of several small streams arising in the Pecos Wilderness, and these coalesce within about a mile of Cowles to form the mainstream of the Pecos River. The portion of the river between Pecos and Cowles measures about 25 miles, and there are a variety of

public access points available alongside NM highway 63. The Lisboa Springs state fish hatchery is situated a few miles north of the village of Pecos. A brief, self-guided tour provides an overview of the facility where stocker rainbow trout are reared to support the put-and-take aspect of the Pecos fishery. There are also a few monster 25+ inch trout on hand to illustrate how large the rainbows can grow, and perhaps to fuel our dreams of someday landing such a trophy.



Pecos River between Terrero and Cowles

The Pecos is a very popular river, and the water can be pretty heavily pressured, especially by bait fishers on weekends. However, most bait anglers focus on the campgrounds and recently stocked locations, leaving much of the river less congested.

Recent adjustments to land management have also been effective at reducing congestion. The damage caused by the Tres Lagunas fire, and the subsequent flooding during the ensuing

monsoon caused significant scouring of the stream bed below Tres Lagunas, and essentially wiped out the stonefly populations in the lower 14 miles of the coldwater fishery. However, on a positive note, the floods also seem to have cleaned out the invasive didymo (*Didymosphenia geminata*, aka "rock snot") that had afflicted the river prior to the forest fire.

Additionally, the temporary closure of portions of the river has provided the opportunity for government resource management agencies to implement new policies, such as reducing stream side camping and implementing Special Trout Waters regulations in some areas. In addition, as of this year, the stoneflies are coming back, even the giant stonefly (*Pteronarcys californicus*) that we often associate with

streams in Colorado and Wyoming. The hatch begins below the village of Pecos and moves upstream to Cowles over the course of about 3–4 weeks in late May and early June. I was fortunate enough to encounter the hatch underway at the Dalton access area where 1½" stoneflies were fluttering all around during the mid-morning hours. Although the trout were not yet taking the surface flies (size 6 and 8 salmonfly, stimulator or cicada patterns), stonefly nymphs were effective.



Colorful and feisty 12" Pecos River brown trout hooked on RS2 tied in PMD colors

There are not many very large fish in the Pecos; most trout are about 10 to 14 inches, though some larger fish make their way out of private stretches of water. The rainbows are mostly stockers and they often hang out in the deeper runs and pockets within the main current. The browns are wild, and are often found in shallower water closer to the banks, or along seams on the inner bends of the main currents. I also found that the two different

kinds of trout were responsive to different fly imitations. While most of the rainbows I caught hit large stonefly nymph patterns, most of the browns took size 18 mayfly emergers tied to imitate the PMDs. Also, because of the coloration of the rocks,



Giant stonefly (Pteronarcys californicus) near Dalton day use area

the Pecos River browns are very difficult to see in the water, so blind casting to likely feeding lies is usually necessary. I found many of these lies to be in less than two feet of water and within 2–3 feet of the bank. This was fortunate, as the river was running at 300 cfs at Terrero, making it very difficult and somewhat dangerous to wade. In fact, it was impossible to cross the river in most of the stretches that I fished. Nevertheless, the water was quite clear and very cold, with morning water temperatures of 44 degrees, warming to about 50 degrees in mid-afternoon. The challenge was finding and accessing pocket water and eddies with slower currents that were fishable. Over two days I caught 27 trout, two-thirds of which were wild browns. Pretty decent, but I've been told that when they start keying on the stonefly adults, the fishing can be truly epic.

In two days I saw only four other fly anglers. I struck up a conversation with one of them, a guy named Willard, as we hiked past one another just above Cowles. We were both catching mostly browns, though he had seen fewer fish overall because he was using only a dry fly attractor pattern (Rio Grande King). Neither of us had encountered very many other anglers, probably because it was a weekday. But, the evidence of the previous weekend's warriors' activities was littered all along the river. I never cease to be amazed and dismayed that someone who goes to the effort of carrying full cans of beer, jars of

salmon eggs, or Styrofoam containers of worms to the bank of the river can't or won't manage to carry those items back to their vehicles when they are empty (and much lighter). We discussed this disappointment for a bit, noting that it would be nice if more of the river were limited to fly angling and catch-and-release. Yet, there is still a role for put-and-take fishing. According to the 2015 NMDGF Angler Satisfaction Survey, 34% of New Mexico anglers keep most of the fish they catch. For many people in northern New Mexico, bait fishing makes an important contribution to feeding one's family, not to mention getting the kids outdoors and away from electronic gadgets for a while. So, one of the results of the popularity of the Pecos River is that you will find litter left behind by the weekend crowds. To their credit, US Forest Service crews were out bright and early Monday morning cleaning up trash left from the weekend. We anglers can help too. I have taken to carrying a small trash bag in which to carry out empty cans, bottles and other containers I encounter while hiking or fishing, especially from areas not likely to be visited often by Forest personnel. If we all do a little bit to keep our public lands clear of litter, we will enhance the outdoor experiences for everyone. Enjoy your public lands along the Pecos River, preferable on a weekday!



Ron Bellerose
PHW Coordinator



PHW is slowing down for the summer. We had a great fishing event at the Lease at the beginning of the month and another good trip to Grindstone Lake. We will be flytying at the Las Cruces VA Clinic on June

29th.

Second quarter report will be due the first of the month. Donations for fly tying material and tools are going good. I hope to have a better more complete list out soon. Sportsman's Elite made a great donation to PHW and I hope to use a lot of the materials for our Vets and get enough donations for the excess

material/tools to have a couple of San Juan trips for them.

Thanks to all my volunteers who make this project a success.

For more information about PHWFF see www.projecthealingwaters.org. Contact Ron Bellerose (575-680-5516), flyfishnh@hotmail.com if you wish to volunteer to help out.

MVFF Member Passes



Terry Spence (1925 - 2016)

Editor's Note: — Terry and Sue joined MVFF in 2009, shortly after moving to Las Cruces. Terry was quite active in the Club as long as he was physically able. Terry and Sue were a fishing team, Terry fished and Sue tied the flies on for him. We will miss him.

Terence Joseph Spence, age 90, of Las Cruces passed away peacefully at home on Monday, June 6, 2016 with his wife, Sue, and son, Steven beside him. "Terry", as he was fondly known to family and friends, was born June 14, 1925 in the town, of Klip River, South Africa to John and Kathleen Wylde Spence. In 1937 his family moved to England, and in 1943 Terry joined the Royal Air Force and served three years during World War II. Terry immigrated to the United States in 1949 and became a citizen in 1960.

Terry and Sue moved to Las Cruces in 2008, where they enjoyed fishing, traveling, and anything that allowed them time together.

For online condolences logon to www.bacasfuneralchapelslascruces.com

San Juan Fishing Report

Blaine Goss - 6/04/16

Tim and I just got back from the San Juan River. Weather was cooler than here and the river was very high. No one was wading. Drift boats were fewer than normal, but was the preferred means of fishing. We caught fish on our float, but had to fish with 12-14 ft. leader/tippets. The water was fast and wavy in most places. The strike indicators were positioned so far away from the hooks that it was difficult to detect a hit. When you attempted to set the hook, it called for a violent, fast reaction. Very tiring. Normally, we catch 50 or so fish, with some lunkers included. Not this time. When the project of purging the river is over (July 1), things will settle back to 400-500 cfs. The water and bottoms will be clean, and the fishing will be good for both floaters and waders.

Club Outings Planned

The board is now discussing possible future outings and would welcome suggestions from members. Where do you want to go? Let them know. If you have comments or suggestions for additional trips pass them to any of the Board members. Trips now in the planning stages are:

- Oct. 1-9—trip to Kodiak. Contact Tom Lightfoot (575-521-4546) for info.
- Nov. 3-6—Club trip to San Juan

Welcome New Members

Cameron Lambert Holloman AFB, NM
Jagan Butler & Michelle Valverde Las Cruces, NM

MVFF Board Meeting Minutes

The Executive Board did not meet in June and therefore there are no minutes to report. The next meeting will be in August.

Quick Look Contact Information

2016 Officers of the Club	
Officers	
• President:	David Carmichael (915) 204-7558
• V-Pres.:	Jim Sorenson (575) 525-1050
• Secretary:	John Kennedy (612) 720-3456
• Treasurer:	Gary Mann (575) 521-7793
Board Members	
• Position 1:	David Carmichael (915) 204-7558
• Position 2:	Jim Sorenson (575) 525-1050
• Position 3:	Jeff Arterburn (575) 524-0773
• Position 4:	Ray Rodriquez (575) 520-5768
• Position 5:	John Kennedy (612) 720-3456
• Position 6:	Chuck Mueller (575) 647-4045
• Position 7:	Bob Silver (575) 522-6325
• Position 8:	Gary Mann (575) 521-7793
• Position 9:	Dennis Lanpher (575) 642-2946
Newsletter & Web Page Editor	
• Jim Hulsey (575) 524-1880	newsletter@mvff.org
Membership Committee Chairman	
• Tom Wobbe (575) 522-5437	membership@mvff.org

Norm Mabie Scholarship Fund	
Market Value as of 30 June 2014	\$11,487

Norm Mabie Scholarship Fund

The Norm Mabie Memorial Scholarship Fund is an endowed fund at New Mexico State University which is funded by MVFF member donations. Earnings from the fund are used to provide scholarships for students at NMSU majoring in fisheries or related fields.

The recipient of each scholarship is determined each April by the MVFF Board with the award being made for the fall semester.

Even though the fund is endowed additions can be made to it at any time. The larger the fund, the more earnings are available for award. If you are interested in contributing please make checks out to the **NMSU Foundation** and on the "for" line of the check, identify "Norm Mabie Memorial Scholarship Fund for deposit only." All contributions are tax deductible. For any questions please contact one of the Officers or Board members. If you have not made a donation to the fund please give consideration and help honor Norm.

Current Email Addresses Needed

Many of the email addresses in our files are not current as members change to other internet providers. These addresses will not be distributed, but will only be used to relay club information or reminders for club meetings and other club events. Please send your address changes to membership@mvff.org.

Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout Print

Help support the MVFF Habitat Restoration Projects and purchase a limited edition "Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout" print. This beautiful printing of an original watercolor of our native state fish is a limited series of 150 high quality 12 x 18 prints that are numbered and signed by New Mexico artist Michelle Arterburn. The cost of each individual print is \$25.00, with the proceeds dedicated towards habitat restoration projects. If you live out of town and wish the print mailed to you please add \$5 for postage. See the MVFF website for purchase.



******* REMEMBER *******
MVFF MEMBERSHIPS & NM FISHING LI-
CENSES EXPIRE ON 31 MARCH

Membership Information

Membership is open to anyone who supports the activities of the club. Membership fees are shown below. Members are provided with the opportunity to attend informational monthly meetings, purchase fishing access permits to the MVFF leased waters on the Rio Peñasco, and participate in other Club activities such as a summer picnic, annual awards banquet, casting clinics, fly tying classes, and Club sponsored fishing trips.

There are several options for the payment of dues. A family is defined as a club member, their spouse and all children 17 years of age or under.

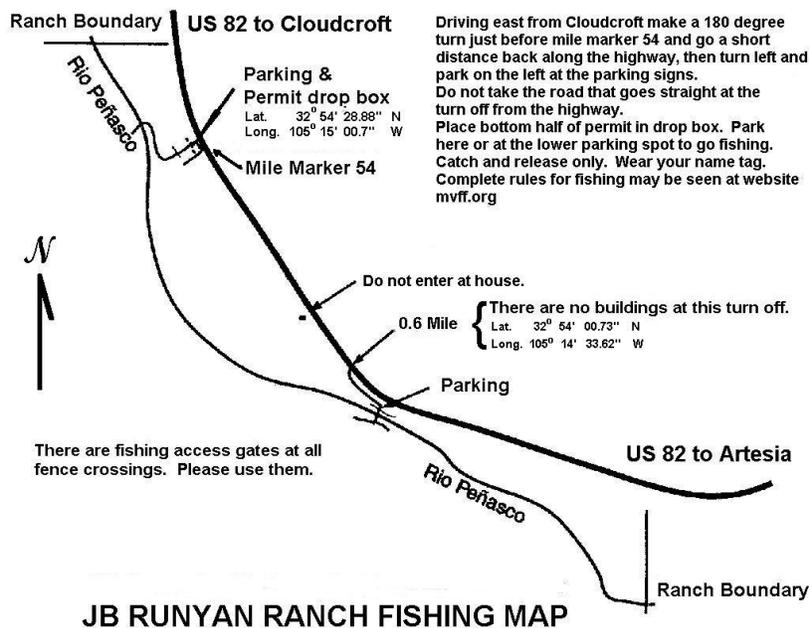
1 Year	\$20	Individual
	\$25	Family
3 Years	\$50	Individual
	\$60	Family
Life	\$400	Individual
	\$500	Family

Lease Information

Permits to fish the Club leased waters on the Rio Peñasco can be obtained from Jim Hulsey (575-524-1880), Tom Wobbe (575-522-5437) and Donna Mabie (575-522-3810) in Las Cruces. Permits can be obtained from the land owner, but you should phone (575-687-3362) the night before to ensure someone will be there to sell them to you. Permits can be ordered through the club web page (mvff.org) by filling out the form and mailing as directed. Cost is \$25.00 per day. Kids under 18 fish free but must be accompanied by an adult club member with a permit. You must be a current member (current dues have been paid) of MVFF to fish the lease. Please wear your MVFF identification badge while on the property. New or replacement badges can be obtained by contacting Jim Hulsey. In addition, members can purchase a one-day, one-time permit for guests.

Directions to the Lease:

Follow NM 82 east from Cloudcroft, NM or west from Artesia, NM. The turn off to the lease is located on the right side of the road about 100 yards before mile marker 54 coming from Cloudcroft or 100 yards on the left past mile marker 54 coming from Artesia.



MESILLA VALLEY FLYFISHERS, INC.

PO Box 2222

Las Cruces, NM 88004-2222

Membership and/or Permit Application

(Please Print Clearly)

Name: _____ Date: _____

Address: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Work/Cell Phone: _____ Home Phone: _____ email: _____

Are you a current member? _____ Yes _____ No

Do you need a name badge? _____ Yes _____ No

New Membership _____ or renewal _____?

Membership Categories: Individual Family Circle the one desired.

1 Year \$20 \$25

3 Years \$50 \$60

Life \$400 \$500

For family membership: Name of spouse _____ No. of children _____

Note: All memberships expire on 31 March. New memberships received on or after 1 January will expire on 31 March of the following year.

Membership fee if applicable \$_____
_____ Adult Permits @ \$25 per permit = \$_____

Total =\$_____

Send remittance with this form to the address shown at top of page.